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Imagery analysis report

Silo Apron Damage at
ICBM Launch Test Site R7
Tyuratam MSTC SSM, USSR (S)

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SILO APRON DAMAGE AT ICBM LAUNCH TEST SITE R7
TYURATAM MSTC SSM, USSR (S)

1. (S/D) Unexplained damage to the apron of the north silo at Tyuratam ICBM Launch Test Site R7 ⬚ Figure 1) at Tyuratam Missile Space Test Center (MSTC) SSM ⬚ ⬚ USSR, was observed following the reportedly successful launch of an SS-18 Mod X ICBM on 4 July 1980.[1]   25X1 25X1

2. (S/D) On 4 July 1980, DEFSMAC reported the successful launch of an SS-18 Mod X ICBM at 0040Z.[1] Subsequent imagery acquired some ⬚ (Figure 2) confirmed the north silo at launch site R7 as the launch point. A launch assist device (LAD), not present on ⬚ was in the normal impact zone, and burn marks were visible on the silo apron. Approximately 32 of the apron paving blocks, some in fragments, had been blown off either side of the silo with some landing on the hardened dome antenna.   25X1 25X1

3. (S/D) Stereo imagery acquired on ⬚ (Figure 3) revealed further details of the damage. The access hatch to an entranceway between the silo and the hardened dome antenna had been blown off and was partially penetrating the earth, edge first, just south of the hardened dome antenna. Also, a large hole was identified on the side of the previously mentioned LAD.   25X1

4. (S/D) Since ⬚, an attempt has been made to reconstruct a damaged portion of the apron west of the silo. By ⬚ seven paving blocks had been loosely emplaced, and eight paving blocks, directly west of the apron, had been moved to the infield area.   25X1 25X1

DOCUMENT

1. DEFSMAC. S/DQ/447-80, 040134Z Jul 80 (SECRET)

(S) Comments and questions regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to ⬚ Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, ⬚   25X1 25X1

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